SWEET MEMORY

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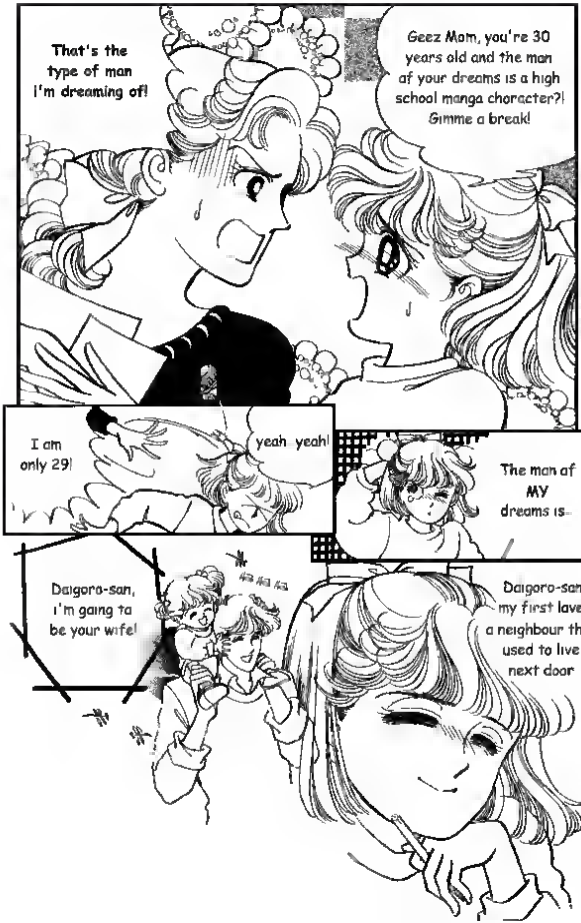
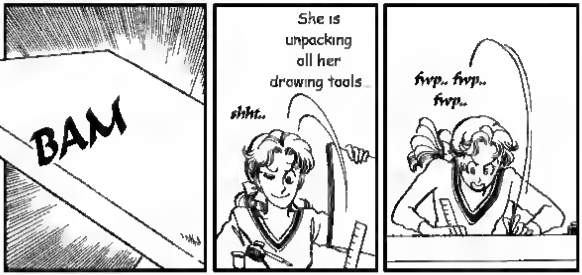
character introduction

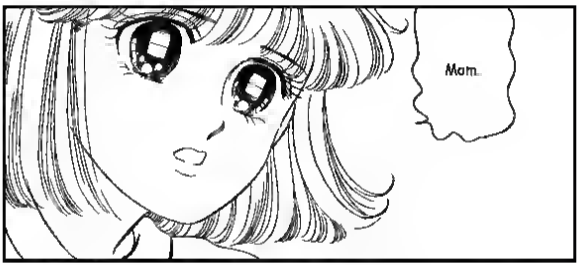
It all begins with this photo
Ah... Mutsumi! Come take a look at this!
What is it mom?
This fan-mail come with a photo and he resembles Jun, the main character in my manga, right?!
I don't think they look alike

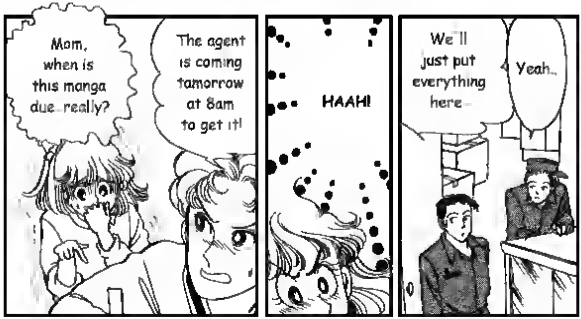

That's the type of man I'm dreaming of!
Geez Mom, you're 30 years old and the man of your dreams is a high school manga character?! Gimme a break!
I am only 29!
yeah yeah!
The man of MY dreams is-
Daigoro-san, my first love- a neighbour that used to live next door
Daigoro-san, i'm going ta be your wife!

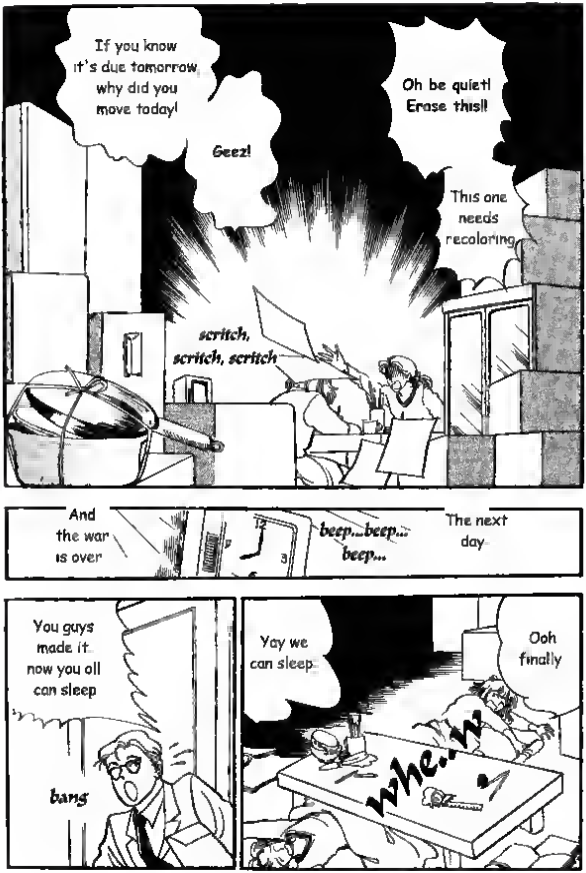
"Your fans Kuniko Oba! From Sutsuji Gadai, New Town"
I've decided Mutsumi!
Uh Oh
You've decided? About..?
smile
Our new place to live, of course
OH NO! We're moving again!
UGH...

Haruka Ikushima my mom, is a popular manga artist
Sutsuji Gadai
Maybe I'll meet that boy!
Ohh what would I do
It's one of mam's bad habits She can't stay at one place for more than one year..
Hey Mutsumi! Watcha doing! Give me a hand, will ya!
A few days later Here we are in Sutsuji Gadai New Town
Mam where should I put this?
The table!
Euh?
Bring the table in first!


BAM
She is unpacking all her drawing tools...
shht..
fwp.. fwp.. fwp..


Mom...

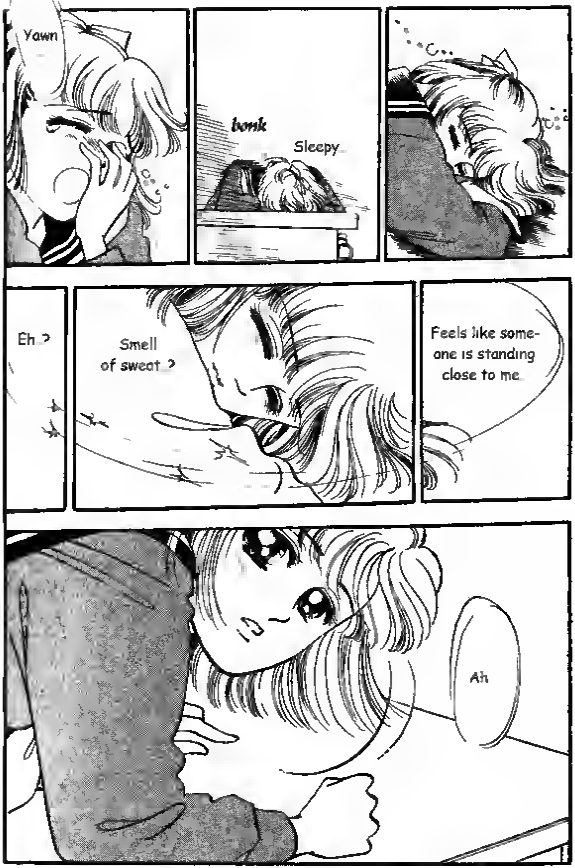

Mom, when is this manga due... really?
The agent is coming tomorrow at 8am to get it!
HAAH!
We'll just put everything here...
Yeah...


If you know it's due tomorrow, why did you move today!
Geez!
Oh be quiet! Erase this!!
This one needs recoloring
scritch, scritch, scritch
And the war is over
beep...beep... beep...
The next day
You guys made it... now you all can sleep
bang
Yay we can sleep
Ooh finally
whe..n

Zzz....
Um ?
Oops!
I must...
pant pant
I must go to school! Ah it's my first day at the new school!
Euh wait... where's the school?...

Excuse me, where's the Sutsuji Gadai Elementary School?
S-1
This is your class
They're now out at P.E class Just wait here
Ye...Yes
I have to wait...
silence

Where should I sit?
Um Umm
JUN
Whoa Jun is here!
Someone put his picture on the toble.
This toble's owner must be my mom's fons
Aww how nice
I think I'll sit here
He He He
Ha Ha
Are they my new friends ?
From class 6-1
Ah


Yawn
bonk
Sleepy
Eh ?
Smell of sweat ?
Feels like someone is standing close to me
Ah

SLAP
kyaa

That girl kissed Daimaru!
Waah... Aah
She slapped Daimaru!
Ah...
Hey, what do u think you're doing to Daimaru!
What? Shouldn't I be the one asking that?!
thack
He was next to me all of a sudden!
Huh..?
11

Man, you got yourself slapped by a girl? How embarrassing!
His cheek is red
I I didn't expect that!
Ugh
This boy
It's him, the guy from the photo! The one who looks like Jun!
C'mon, apologize to Daimaru!!
Who do you think you are!
Yeah, right now!

swoosh
Huh! I'm better off staying at home than being in the same class as you weirdos! Excuse me!
Fuuh..
Really? I think this is the BEST class for you

Your name is Mutsumi Ikushima right?
Daigoro-san!
A..A..
He's my teacher
I want to be your wife
I know it's him, even though I haven't seen him for a few years
His body's like that of a dragonfly long and slender His eyes are warm and gentle

I'm Daigoro Ranzuki, your homeroom teacher. Nice to meet you!
wink
He still remembers me!
My first love... Daigoro-san!
Allright! Now..
Daimaru, don't you know kissing a girl you just met is wrong?!
Now apologize to Mutsumi!
Ack.

No way!
eeek..
Daigoro -san saw it?!
For-give me
shhtt..
Never!
Huh!
Ush!

In front af Daigara-san, my first love. I, Mutsumi Ikushima have been forced ta kiss this jerk!
I swear by all living creatures an earth that I will NEVER fargive him, na matter what!
growl
Se. Sen- sei-
Uh-ah, I think she really hates yau Daimaru
11

*sensei = teacher

Now, let's see where Mutsumi can sit
Sensei, behind me there is a free table!
Oh Kuniko Oba, thanks. but isn't Daimaru sitting there?
tup..
feh!
It's allright, I'll sit here
Hey! You can't just move around as you like!

Okay, you sit there, Mutsumi
Yes Sir!
From now on this is my table
Hello!
But wait a minute
Daimaru sat here before...
That means..
It was his!
Ah...She's scowling at me again
On the first day of school, I've been forcefully kissed by him!

Sensei, where can I get a cloth?
How disgusting!!
Must wipe clean every place that he ever touched!
squeek, squeek
You're a bit strange aren't you?
Me?
By the way, your last name is the same as manga artist, Haruka Ikushima
are you related by any chance?
Uhm
AH?
What was her name? Kuniko Oba?! She must be
Are you Kuniko Oba?
You sent my mom o fan-mail right?!
OOH! So you're her daughter!

tap...
tap...
Be quiet during class!
BRRRR...ING
oops
The truth is, I dont like it if my classmates know about Mom.
Ohh! She's that manga artist s doughter?
Can you draw manga too?
Mutsumi! That Teddy Rensai series... what happens next??
I feel a little embarrassed... besides, I don't think it's such a big deal.
Can you ask her to sign my book?
I knew it
That's her

Oh that one?
Yeah she just transferred four days ago
Here we go again is a manga artist's daughter really that weird?
Even students from ather classes have come to see me
She kissed Daimaru, y'know!
What?! She'll pay far this! Poor Daimaru
HEY!
Why do you accuse me of something that is not my fault?!
BAM
Instead you pity Daimaru the one who did it!

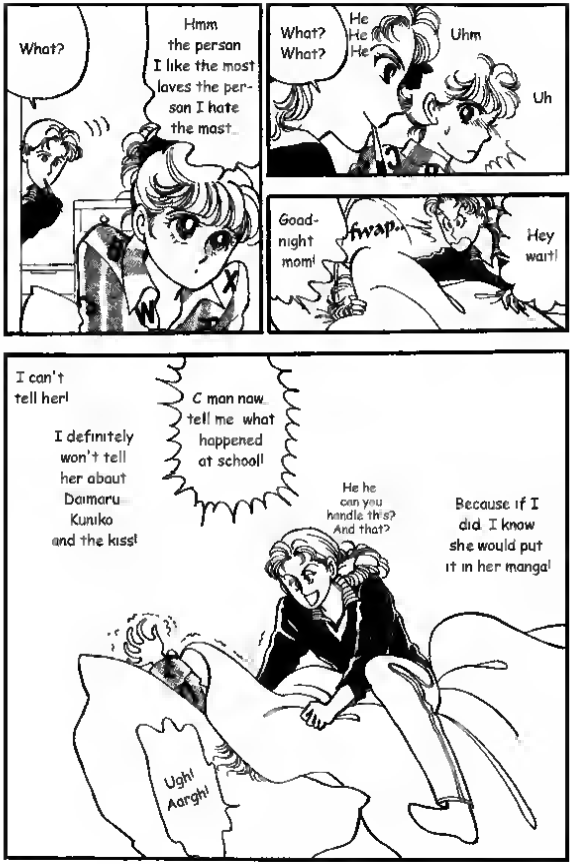
I hate it!
I hate it!
I hate it!
Mut-
sumi
Um what makes you think that it s Daimaru s fault and you re the victim ?
What?
Actually we were just playing Sleeping Beauty
When Class 6-1 went back ta the classraam after P E sessian

Everyone was surprised to see a stranger sleeping so peacefully
And at that time, someone suddenly said
Oh a sleeping beauty!
Aha! And to wake up the princess, we need...
The prince!
The prince has to kiss her to wake her up right?
Why are you guys standing in the doorway?
Hm
Yeah the prince is here!
WHAT?!

Go! Go!
C'mon, give the princess a kiss!
That'll apen her eyes!
Ugh what is this?!
Ohh wow—
What a beautiful princess!
Daimaru is an outgoing type that'll da anything we ask
We figured he knew it was only a game
We didn't think he was going ta do it for real
We couldn't stap laughing—
Ha Ha Ha
Um—
I can't see her lips

Unfortunately you woke up all of a sudden
WHAT?!
Well you know the rest of the story
and moved your face
So it looked as if I was the one stealing a kiss?
That's why they pity Daimaru

Why do you get angry about it anyways
If it was me, I'd be happy
wwww
So... you like Daimaru, Kuniko?!
It doesn't matter!
The truth is yes I do
Ah... it gets pretty complicated...


What?
Hmm the persan I like the most laves the per-son I hate the mast...
What? What?
He He He
Uhm
Uh
Goad-night mom!
fwap..
Hey wait!
I can't tell her!
I definitely won't tell her abaut Daimaru Kuniko and the kiss!
C man naw... tell me what happened at school!
He he can you handle this? And that?
Because if I did I know she would put it in her manga!
Ugh! Aargh!

Huh?
Invi-
tation
for PTA
meeting
on the 15th
Ah, you
don't
have to
go, Mam!
Swap..
You're
busy,
right?!
Eh?
Mutsumi!

Please tell your Mam ta come ta tomorrow s meeting
Um okay
Heh. I wonder how many years it s been since I ve last seen Haruka
What s wrong Mutsumi?
I haven t told Mom
Eh?
Oh it s nothing
That my home-room teacher is Daigara-san her old friend
The reason is Daigara-san is my first love

And I know,
that Daigoro-san's
first love
is Mam .

That's why I don't want them to meet again
15
It's today isn't it, Mutsumi?
That PTA meeting?
You're coming, Mom?!
Of course, I want to see your new school...
You'll be a junior high student next year... so I want to meet your homeroom teacher and talk about whether you should continue to go to a public or private school...
Calm down, mom always says that she'll show up but she never does
Ah, I stayed up late last night... I want to rest first
Where is the alarm?
I'll get up at 9
Okay, it's set
tick tick tick
zzz...
hm

read from left to right

Just to be on the safe side
I better reset her alarm to noon
tick tick
Gosh! It's noon! The meeting is already over!
Ho ha! Sleep well, Mom!
6-1
bla... bla... bla...
They're here!
That one on the left
That's my mom
Wow Kuniko, you really look like her!

Where's your mom Mutsumi? I bet everyone is excited to see a manga artist in person!
Unfortunately my Mom is not coming
bam!
A...A...
That voice!!
ack!
Ah, sorry, I'm late!
pant pant pant
pant... pant... pant
EH?! Aren't you Daigoro who used to live next door?!
I ran as fast as I could
Oh no

Hey! Daigoro, you lil' devil! I don t believe this! So now you teach in on elementory school?!
Wait Ouch stop Haruka!
We're still in the meeting now
SWAP

Oh no! It IS Mom!
What's that woman doing?
She's here!

This is embarrassing
You said, Daigoro-san is a little devil?
Yeah, he used to wet his bed, stole persimmons* from my backyard, and cut the whiskers off of our neighbour's cat!
*persimmon: an asian fruit
Liar! It was you who cut the cat's whiskers!
POCK
Was it ?
I was the one who got scolded for it!

Long time no see, Haruka! You look older, eh?!
This is bad! Mom, who is almost 30...
is very sensitive about her age!
OLD?
Grrrr...
Old you say?
Aah the bomb's going to explode!
thwap... bam...
So... what?!!
You insect look-alike!!!
I don't wanna see...
Ahh... Sensei!

Who is that woman?
Mom!
Mom?
So, that person must be
Grrr.. rrr..
That popular manga artist, Haruka Ikushima!!
Let me go, Mutsumi! I'm gonna teach that Daigoro a lesson! How dare he! Can't he say anything nice?!
I remember you used to be stupid too! How can a stupid guy like you be a sensei?!
Drag.. Drag..

Ah sensei
Sen
Mutsumi what should I do? I beat up your sensei
Sigh... she realized it when it's already too late
It's alright Mam Let me apalagize to him
Ugh... Silly Mom
sob sob
sob sob
Yeah... please...
Oops

Ah, that's her daugther, right?
Huh, that manga artist should remember her age! How could she come to the PTA meeting with jeans and a bright T-Shirt!
ha ha ha
They're talking about Mom again!
That's Nishina, from class 6-4
Haruka Ikushima is a tramp who had a kid outside of marriage when she was in High School!
I read it in a magazine
Since that Sleeping Beauty incident, she hates you
Nishina likes Daimaru, but it's only one-sided
Just ignore her.
Someone as dirty as her isn't the right person to write manga that's filled with love and dreams!

Take that back
ugh!
You better take it back!
I'll never forgive you!
Hyaa..
Heh_what's wrong with telling the truth!
Let's go!

So what if Mom is not married?
We both help each other. the two of us work hard to keep on living
You don't have the right to insult my Mom just because I don't have a Dad
Grr..
What's going on?
Stop it!
Aah

Damarul
You guys shouldn't fight
But she started it!
It's bleeding
Don't touch me!
I hate this!
uuh...huuh..

screetch
Get in
Daigaro-san!
I heard you got into a fight to defend your Mom
You're really a good daughter
sutsuji gadai
sniffle
Mu-tsumi!

What happened ta yaur face?!
Daigaral
Take that!
Haw could yau take revenge thraugh a child?!
Mam it's nat that!
srab

Mom!
ah... ah...
Dai-goro-san!
wink
Hey you have ink on your face!
Where? Where?
"rub" "rub" "rub"
Is it gone now?
ha ha ha...

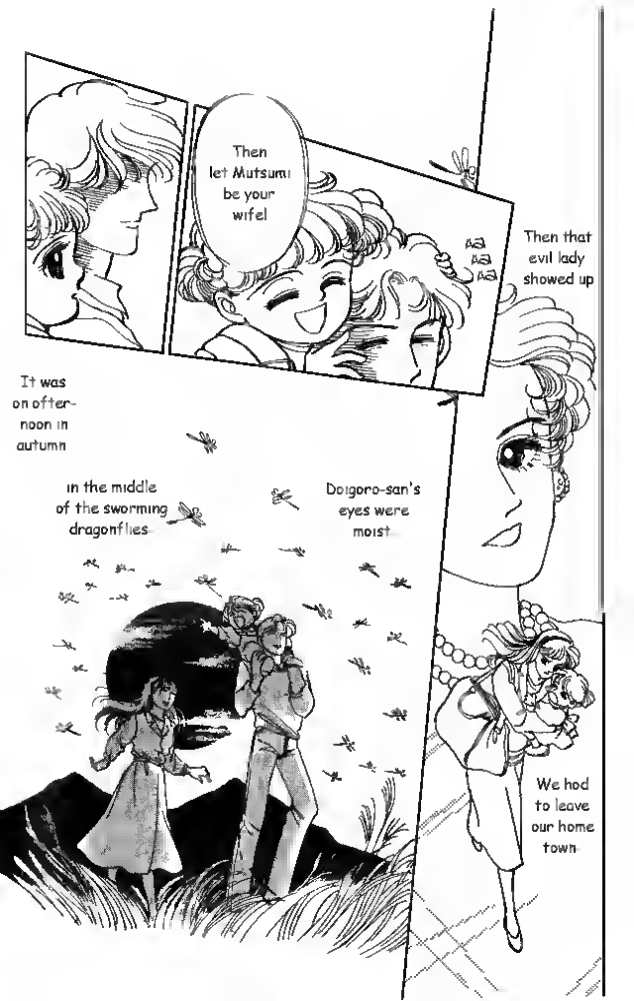
And
so
chop
chop

I was really surprised you moved to this area
I was also surprised that you're Mutsumi's homeroom teacher

Daigaro-san is in my house
It's like a dream

His eyes are always warm

I dont know why, but I can still remember it clearly
The day he got rejected by Mom
Horuka be my wife
.....


Then let Mutsumi be your wife!
Aa Aa Aa
Then that evil lady showed up
It was on afternoon in autumn
in the middle of the swarming dragonflies
Daigoro-san's eyes were moist
We had to leave our home town

Wait until I become a beautiful girl
Then you shall propose to me
Daigoro-san my feelings are still the same I will be your wife Daigoro-san
I'll never fall in love with another man
Ah, it's already 6 o clock!
My younger brother must be waiting for me!
He's always hungry after school activities and tonight is my turn to cook!
Oh, why don't you invite him here, we'll eat dinner together!

Are you sure?
It's alright, we have enough food!
Are you really sure?
Yup! Just call him!
Yay! I get to eat dinner with Daigaro-san!
Today's menu is curry
Yea, in Sutsuji Gadai New Town Haruka Ikushima's place, on the 5th floor
No complaints! just hurry up come over!
Uhm, Daigaro-san's brother? I wonder how he looks like?
Ding Dong..
He's here!
He'll be here soon
click
tap tap..
I must get along with his brother
Coming

Hello
Daimaru!
Hey, watcha doing here?!
But I was
Oh. Daimaru is here already? Let him in!

* elder brother
Oni-san!*
Huh? Wha...at?
shhht
This is a night-mare
He...who has kissed me by force...
The person whom I hate the most...
is the younger brother of my first love Daigaro-san!
What should I do?!

I am so shocked!
Daimaru... the persan I hate the most is the younger brother of Daigoro, the one I love the most...
Go ahead and sit over there
Okay
Aaah! I wanted to sit in that spot!
Next to Daigoro-san...
?
Grrrr
Hmph, how annoying!

Sweet Memory

Chapter 4

(Read left to right)

Editor: Tama-Neko

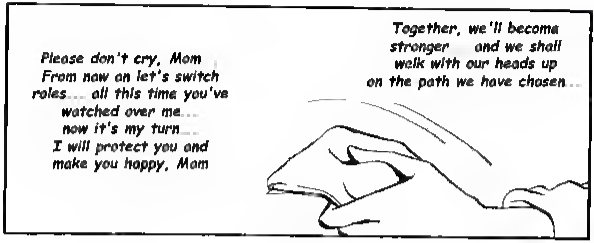
Translator/Scanner: Luchs

http://www.mangasync.org

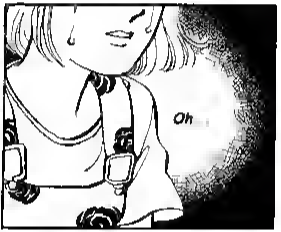
Eh? Is that you, Daimaru?
Gosh, Daimaru!
Your face hasn't changed since you were a baby!
PAT
PAT
His face hasn't changed since he was a baby?
Daimaru, you should greet her she used to babysit you
Baby-sit?
Yes, I used to change your diapers everyday
How disgusting!
That's right... mother died after she gave birth to you
Sir this is..
Dad, how do we put this on?
Diapers?!
WAAH
WAAH

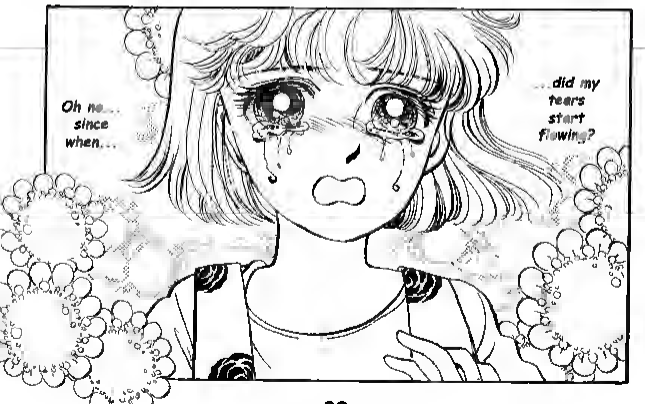
Let me do this!
TAP
TAP
There! Doesn't that feel better, Daimaru?
HA HA HA
Poor guy
His face is so red
You two always played together just like twins!
Remember?
How could I?
SWIP
Seconds please
Boy, you sure do eat a lot
At that time I was just starting off as a manga artist
When it got close to a deadline, I was the one who took care of you

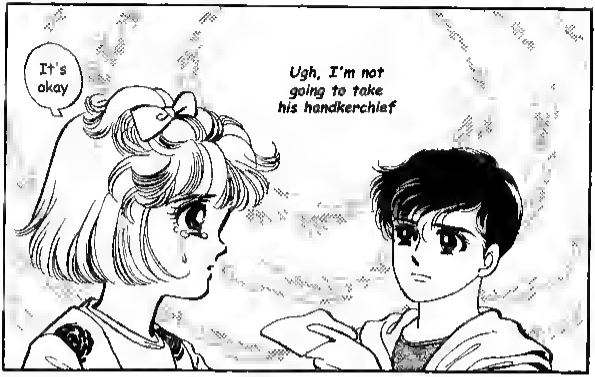
It must have been hard for you Mom
Yeah but it was a lot of fun
It was fun but...
sniff sniff
Back then, Mom had me when she was in her third year of high school
You know she's not married yet but she already has a baby
whisper whisper
Geez kids these days


Please don't cry, Mom
From now on let's switch roles.... all this time you've watched over me... now it's my turn...
I will protect you and make you happy, Mom
Together, we'll become stronger and we shall walk with our heads up on the path we have chosen...

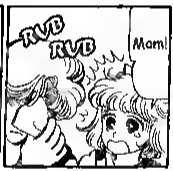
Ah?
Wipe away your tears

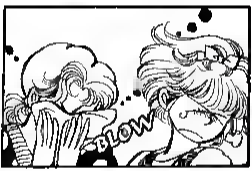

Oh...

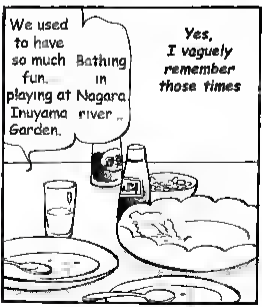

Oh no... since when...
...did my tears start flowing?

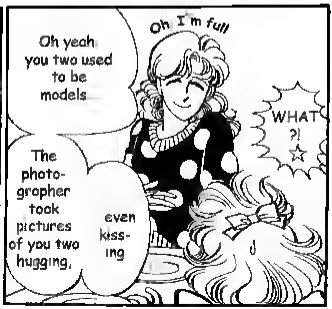

It's okay
Ugh, I'm not going to take his handkerchief

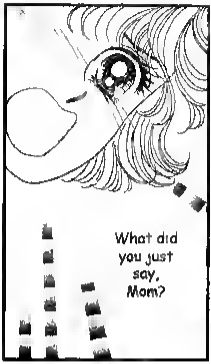
SNATCH

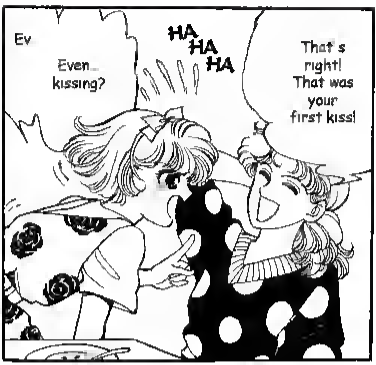

RUB
RUB
Mam!


BLOW

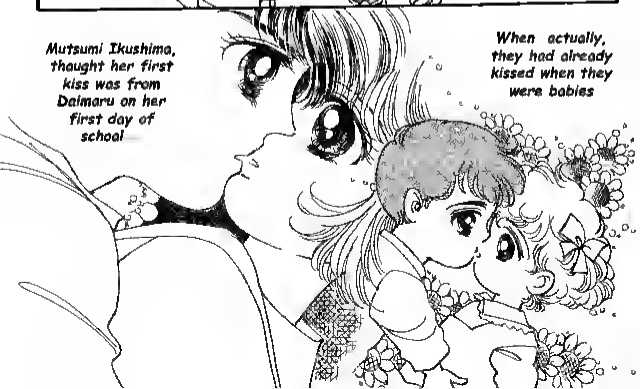

We used to have so much fun playing at Nagara Inuyama Garden.
Bathing in river
Yes, I vaguely remember those times


Oh yeah, you two used to be models
Oh I'm full
WHAT?!
The photo-grapher took pictures of you two hugging,
even kiss-ing


What did you just say, Mom?


Ev
Even kissing?
HA HA HA
That s right! That was your first kiss!

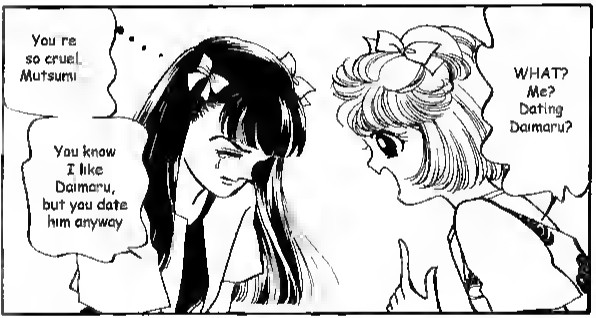
Mom
Mom.
So so


Mutsumi Ikushima, thaught her first kiss was from Daimaru on her first day of school
When actually, they had already kissed when they were babies

Gg
Gh
Ghhh
GULP
HA HA HA HA HA HA
THUD
Die!
DIE!
You will die for that, Daimaru Ranzuki!

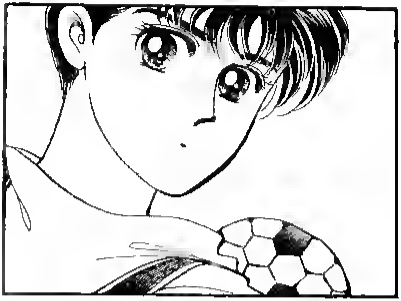
See you Mutsumi
Good night Daigoro-san
Thanks for dinner
HMPF
Kuniko!
UH
Kuni-ko!
What's the matter? Are you angry?

It seems today is filled with tears
A um
A... h...
sniff sniff sniff


You're so cruel, Mutsumi
You know I like Daimaru, but you date him anyway
WHAT? Me? Dating Daimaru?

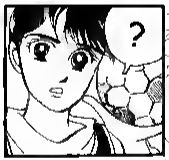
Don't lie to me!
I saw him coming out of your house
You're mistaken! Daimaru is Daigoro-san's little brother!
The one I love is Daigoro-san!

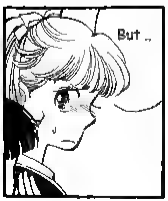
Really? Is that true?
Argh I've said too much
Oh thank goodness!
Please keep it a secret
Alright!
If you really like Daimoru, then you need to try harder
H... how?
For example ask him out to a museum
Or to watch Kabuki*
In Mom's manga
Museum? Kabuki theater? I...
I'm not sure about those but I'm too shy to ask him out
* Kabuki: Traditional form of Japanese theater
Do you want him to be taken by other girls instead?
Crying won't solve the problem
O Okay
I will ask him out to the movies!
But I'm scared. will you come with me Mutsumi?



Umm...
Good luck!

I... I can't!
Mutsumi, help me!
No, you have to do this by yourself!


?


But...

Next Saturday at three o clock, in front of the Nanachan Doll
SLIP
Okay?
Wow a movie ticket
Okay!
This guy ...
We did it!

Mutsumi, until when are you going to watch Daimoru?
Eh
Good luck Kuniko!
SLAP!
Saturday
PADDER PADDER
Any news from Kuniko about her date?
Not yet the movie should be over by now
Is she okay?
Why are you the one who s worried?
Well you know...
If o couple is destined to be together
they're connected by an invisible red thread tied around their pinkies
I see

Then your thread...
...and Dad's aren't connected?
Ack!
Aah... I got ink all over my manga!
Uh-oh, better run
TAP TAP
SHAAA
PANT PANT
I'm so sorry, Mom... I didn't mean to say that
Please believe me... I'd never hurt you
A red thread...
Connecting two people

If that's true, then I want my red thread...
...to connect with Mom, the person I lave so much

Kunika didn't call after all
Who is it?
DING DONG
Kuniko?
I'm Kuniko's mother...
Kuniko has vanished!
Do you know where she might have gone?
What? You mean she's not out with Daimaru?
Yes. I know that.
She left looking so happy
But...
Not long after she came back
I want to die.
What's wrong?
Daimaru he's

I want to die
Huh? Where's Mutsumi?
Where's Mutsumi?
Where's Mutsumi?
Kuniko!
After that, she disappeared
Damaru has rejected Kuniko?

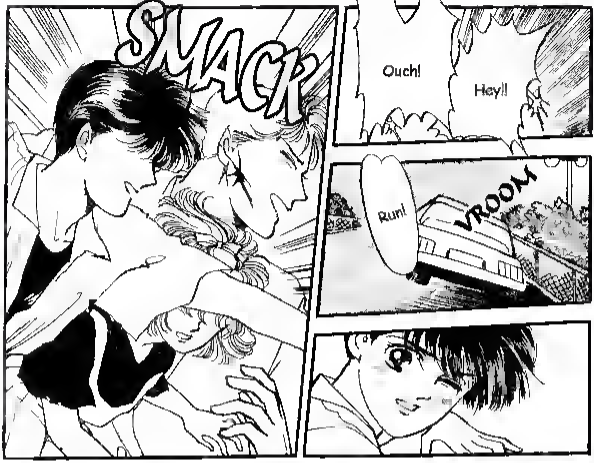
Sorry to keep you waiting, Daimaru
Huh? Where's Mutsumi?
Why, Daimaru?
True, I was the one who asked him out
Oh no! He must have misunderstood!
Next Saturday at three o'clock in front of the Nanachan Doll okay?
Okay!
SLIP

I want to die
Oh no!
Kuniko!!
"Want to die"? No, I don't want her to say such a thing...
It sounds so sad...
Kuniko!
Kuniko?
Where are you?
KUNIKO!!
Mutsumi
Mom
Have you found her yet?
No, not yet

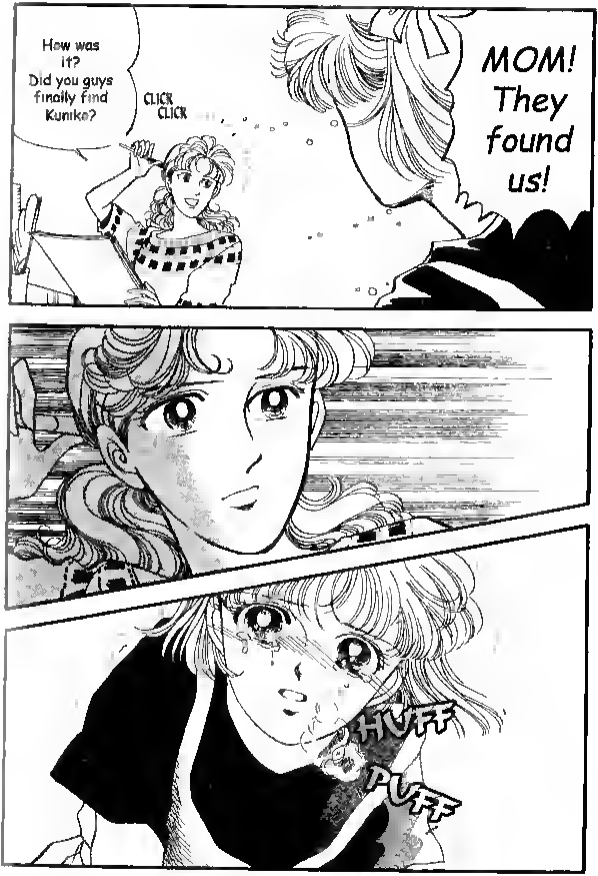
If it had been you, Mutsumi, what would you have done?
If you had run away from home where would you go?
Then I would probably return home
I'm going back, she might be at home!
I would walk away as far and as fast as I could
Until I got too tired to go on
Home!
What?!
OBA
CREAK
BADUM BADUM BADUM
Kuniko!!

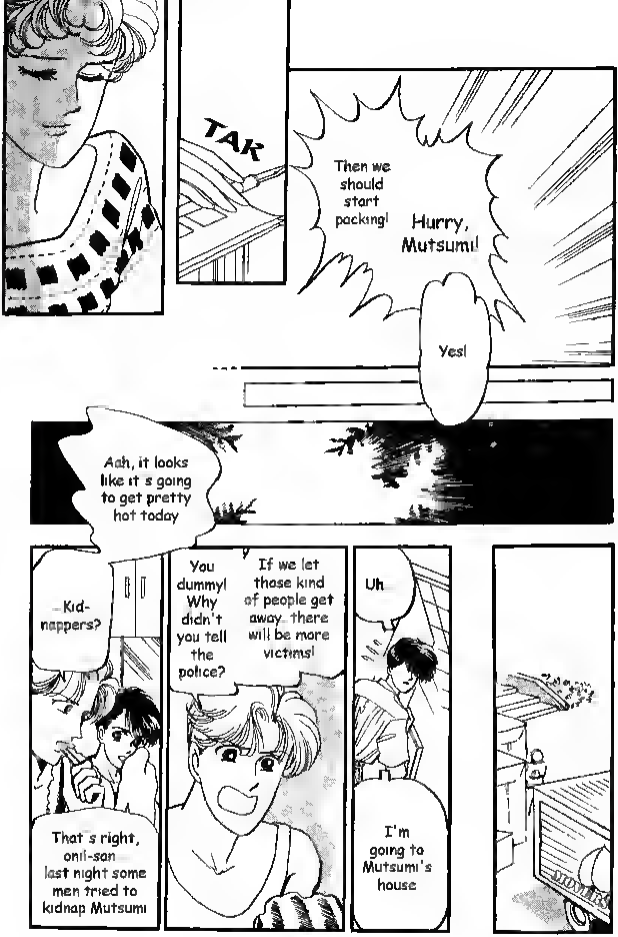
She's here!
Thank goodness!
Yay!
When did you get home, Kuniko?
Sssh
Dried-up tears
Kuniko's heart must have been shattered...
BADUM
She must have cried herself to sleep
Where's Mutsumi?
That guy is really annoying!
My blood boils whenever I think of him!
Yes, this is Daimaru
Hey Daimaru!
I need to talk with you! Meet me in the park!

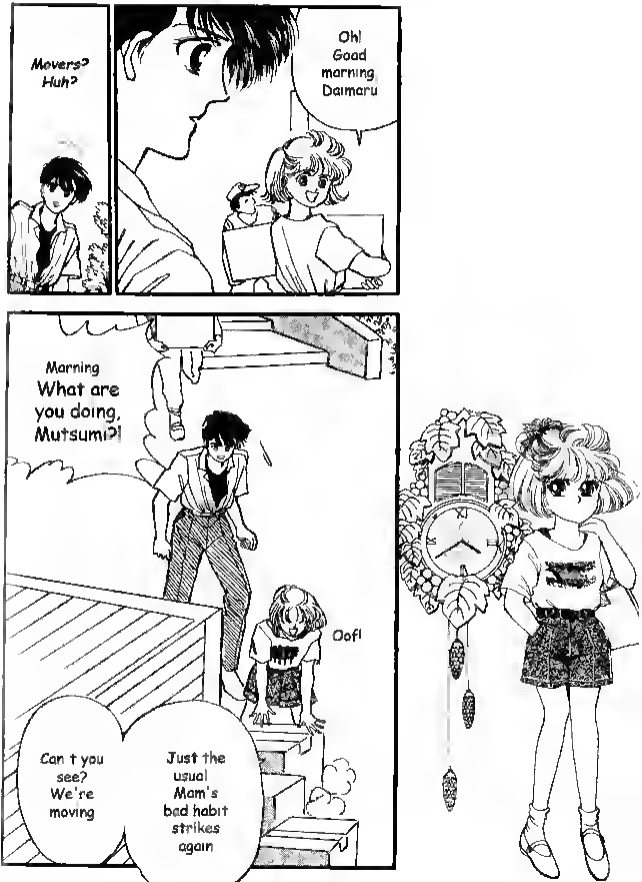
I won't forgive him
How could he make Kuniko cry?
CREAK CREAK
I'm going to slap him so hard
AAAAH!
What was that?
It sounded like Mutsumi's voice
Get in the car!


SMACK
Ouch!
Hey!!
Run!
VROOM

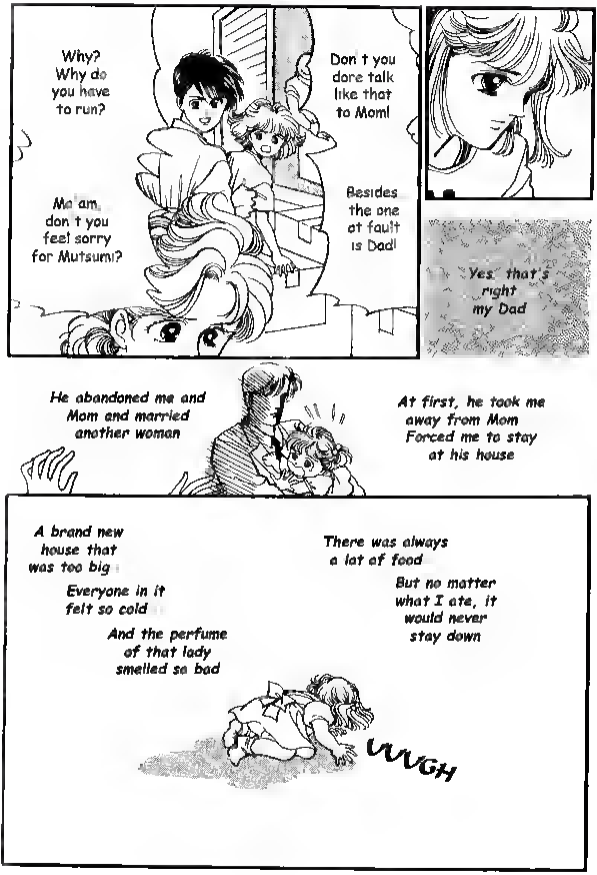
Are you okay, Mutsumi?
Are you hurt?
Please be friends with Kuniko
That's my last request
What?
Farewell
SLAM
Mutsumi!!

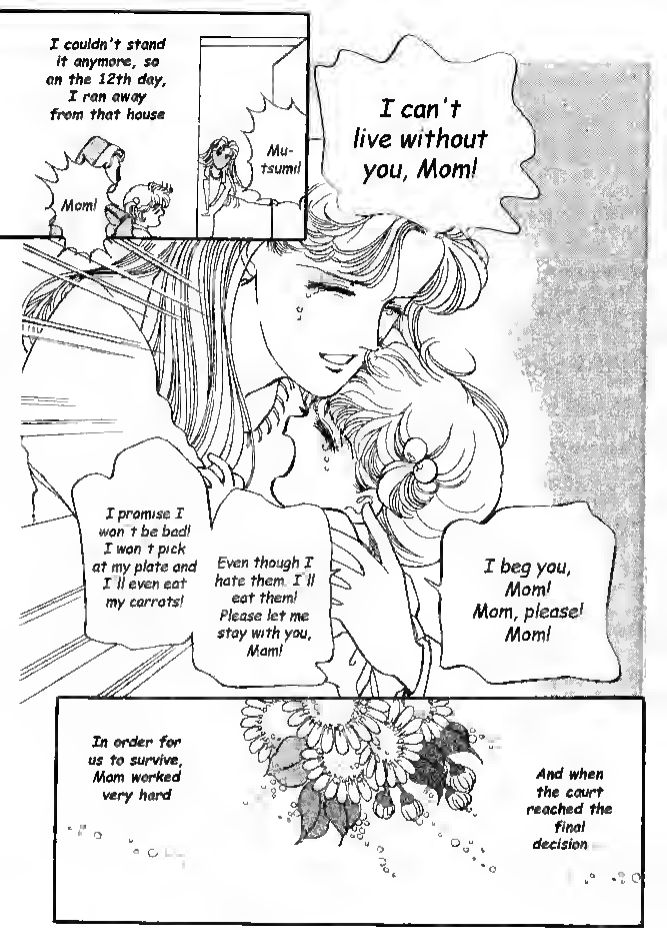

How was it? Did you guys finally find Kunike?
CLICK CLICK
MOM! They found us!
HUFF
PUFF


TAK
Then we should start packing!
Hurry, Mutsumi!
Yes!
Aah, it looks like it's going to get pretty hot today
—Kid-nappers?
That's right, onii-san last night some men tried to kidnap Mutsumi
You dummy! Why didn't you tell the police?
If we let those kind of people get away there will be more victims!
Uh
I'm going to Mutsumi's house


Movers? Huh?
Oh! Good morning, Daimaru
Morning
What are you doing, Mutsumi?!
Oof!
Can't you see? We're moving
Just the usual Mam's bad habit strikes again

You're moving away?!
Yup! This time we're moving to Kyushu, so we may never meet again
Please say goodbye to Kuniko and the rest of class 6-1 for me
Are... are you joking?
I don't believe this 'bad habit" talk! Why is this so sudden?
Aah! Mom be careful Those are fragile
I
Because of those kidnappers?!
BADUMP
He's pretty smart
Tell me, are you running away from those men from last night?

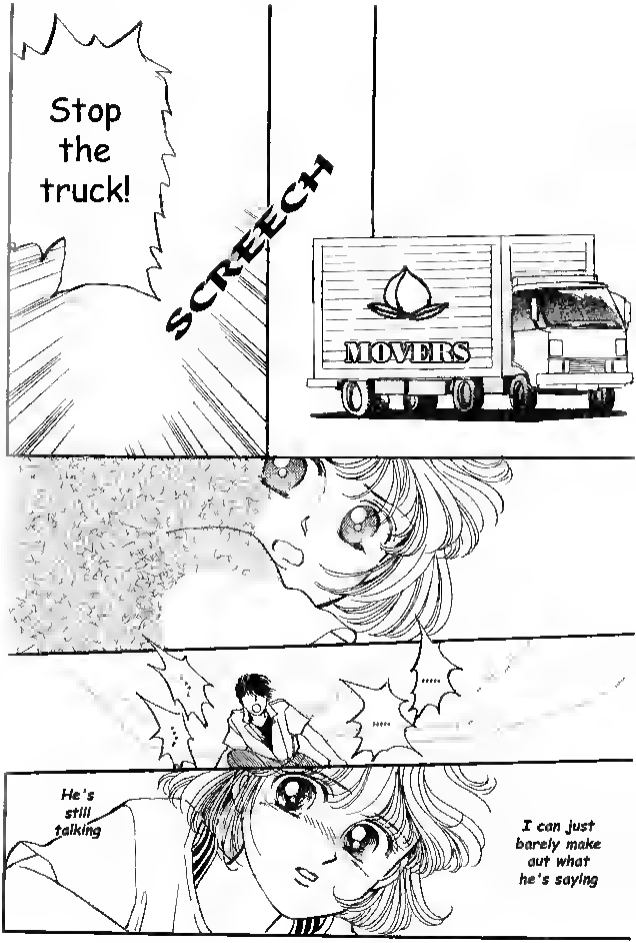

Why? Why do you have to run?
Don't you dare talk like that to Mom!
Ma'am don't you feel sorry for Mutsumi?
Besides the one at fault is Dad!
Yes, that's right my Dad
He abandoned me and Mom and married another woman
At first, he took me away from Mom Forced me to stay at his house
A brand new house that was too big
Everyone in it felt so cold
And the perfume of that lady smelled so bad
There was always a lot of food
But no matter what I ate, it would never stay down
UUUGH


I couldn't stand it anymore, so on the 12th day, I ran away from that house
Mom!
Mu-tsumi!
I can't live without you, Mom!
I promise I won't be bad! I won't pick at my plate and I'll even eat my carrots!
Even though I hate them, I'll eat them! Please let me stay with you, Mam!
I beg you, Mom! Mom, please! Mom!
In order for us to survive, Mam worked very hard
And when the court reached the final decision

That Mutsumi Ikushima will be taken care of by the Sakuma family
Mom and I have been running Ever since that day
We'll never give up!

The two of us Mom and I
VROOM
Are leaving now!
No matter what!
But running away won't solve anything!
VROOM

No matter how many times or how far you've run away
FIGHT!
Why don't you fight instead? Until you win?
VROOM
Hey Daimaru!
Stop running in the street!
It's dangerous!
MOVERS
Farewell
You don't get it, do you? The light is green now.
The cars are moving!
Aah! Watch out!
HONK
Dai-maru!


Stop the truck!
SCREECH
MOVERS
.....
.....
He's still talking
I can just barely make out what he's saying

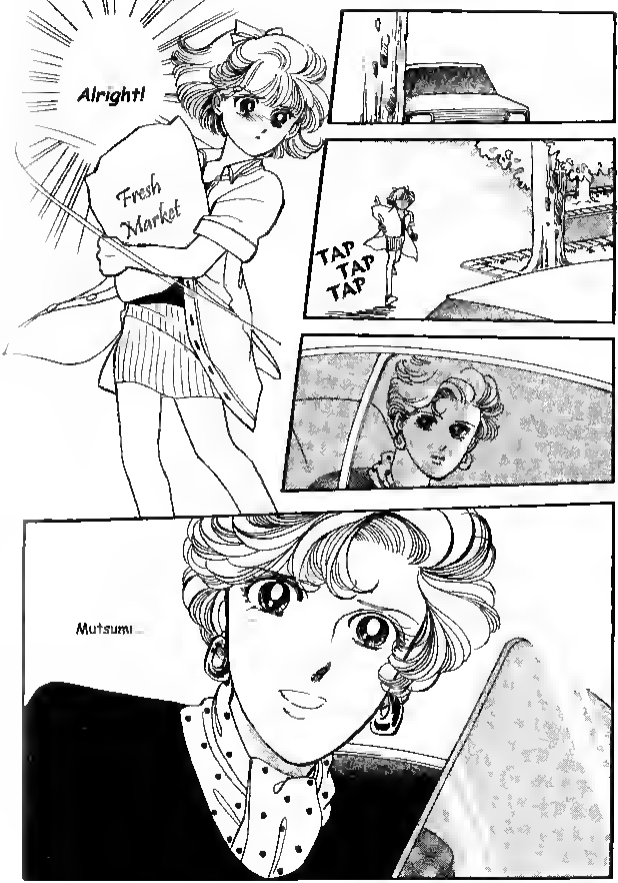
Fight until you win!
Fight until you win
What he said isn't bad...
Shall we fight one more time... Mutsumi?
We may have to fight several more times
Yes...
Until we win
Yes
We'll fight them!
Yeah!
Yes Mom!

HUFF PUFF
VROOM
They came back!
Yay!
Hey wait for me!
Let me ride in the truck!
Thank you, Daimaru
We will fight them
Fight them until we win

No matter how many times or how far you've run away...
Why don't you fight instead? Until you win!
Ever since Daimaru told us that
I've had to be extra-careful
Fresh Market
Because that evil lady might show up again
For some reason, she can always find me

Back then when Dad forced me to stay at his house, she tried to take care of me it only lasted 12 days
She is Dad's current wife
She wanted to separate me from Mom
She's an ugly, evil woman who stole Dad's heart
SHAAA
Wow, the clouds have such funny shapes!
A UFO
A whale!
Fresh Market
HUH?

They're here, Daimaru... But I'll do as you said
Fight! Fight them!
They're here?
Fresh Market
BADUMP


Alright!
Fresh Market
TAP TAP TAP
Mutsumi...

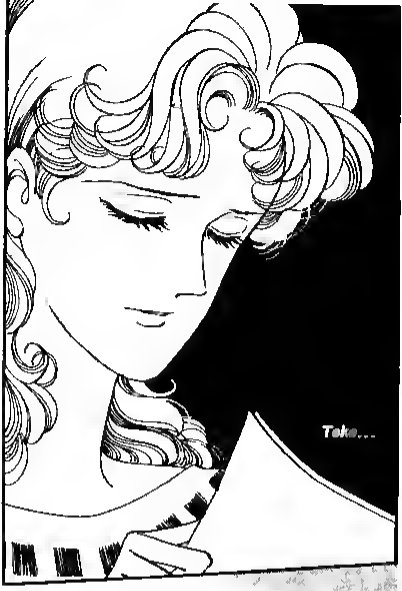
I beg you...
Please don't show up in front of us again!
I
I
I really hate you!
Ah...

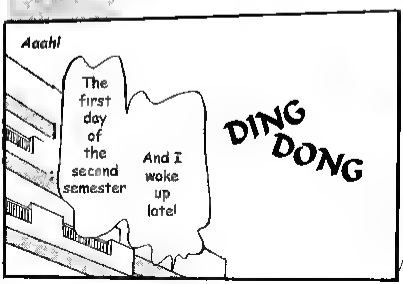
HUFF
PUFF
SHAAA
Fresh
Market
SLAM
VROOM

I did it!
This is the first time I fought the enemy with my own strength!
Fresh Marker
And then, on the last day of summer break
To Mutsumi Ikushima
Huh? For me?
Wow, what a cute purple envelope
Mmm the sweet fragrance of the sumire flower
Sakuma Toko
Sakuma Toko?!
From Dad's wife

Dear Mutsumi Ikushima,
I didn't mean to hurt you. I just wanted to watch you from afar. It appears I seem to have angered you. I am so sorry. I will never bother you again.
Farewell
P.S. Haruka please take care of Mutsumi
We won! We won! Yay! Mom, we've won!
Yes, dear! We have!
Mom, we've won!
We'll never be separated again!
And we won't need to move or change schools anymore!
The red thread connecting me to Mom....
....will never break

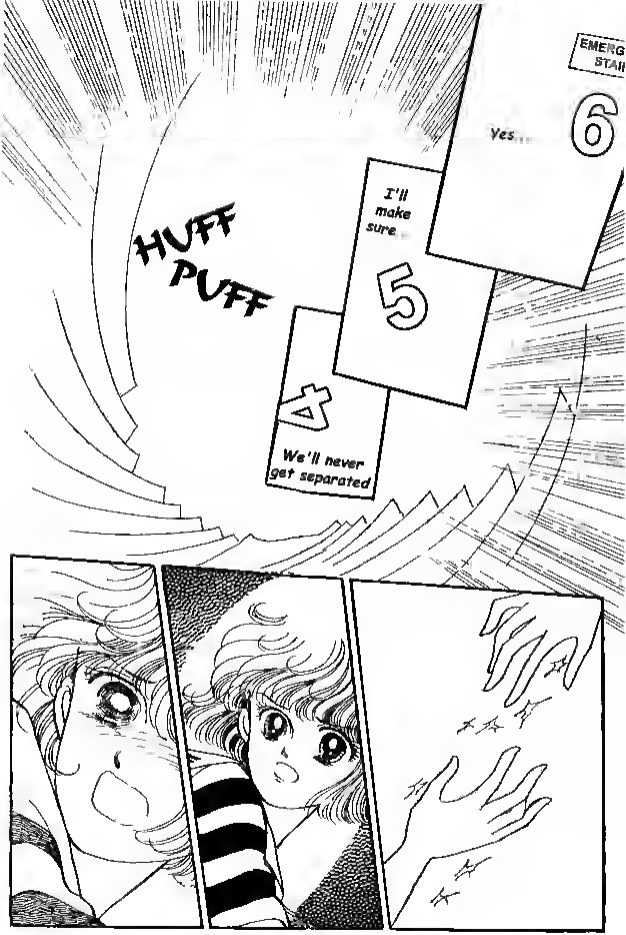
Fight! Fight until you win!
What you said is true, Daimaru
Whatever happens, we shouldn't run away We should never give up
Farewell P.S. Hanaka please take care of Mutsumi


Take...


Aachi
The first day of the second semester
And I woke up late!
DING DONG

Who could it be, so early in the morning?
SCRATCH SCRATCH
I'll get the door
Are you Haruka Ikushima? We're from the police
We have a report saying you kidnapped the daughter of the Sakuma family Please come with us to the police station
And you must be Mutsumi Sakuma?
You'll need to come with us, too
C'mon Mom! Run!
WOOSH!

Mu-tsumi!
Hurry!
Aah! We can't wait for the elevator!
Hey stop right there you two!
Over here, Mom!
EMERGENCY STAIRS
7
Please don't separate us!
If they take Mom away from me
will the red thread that connects us break?


EMERG
STAI
Yes...
6
I'll make sure...
5
4
We'll never get separated
HUFF
PUFF

MOM!
HOSPITAL

read left to right :)

translator/scanner: Luchs
editor: jez
http://mangasync.org

Dad and...
his wife!
Mutsumi, I did it. Don't blame it on Tako.
You sent that letter so that we'd let our guards down and you could report us to the police, right?
You liar! Why did you come here?!
I don't want to listen to this! Go away, both of you!
You must come with me, Mutsumi!
Think of Haruka's future, if this keeps up...
Listen to me, Mutsumi!

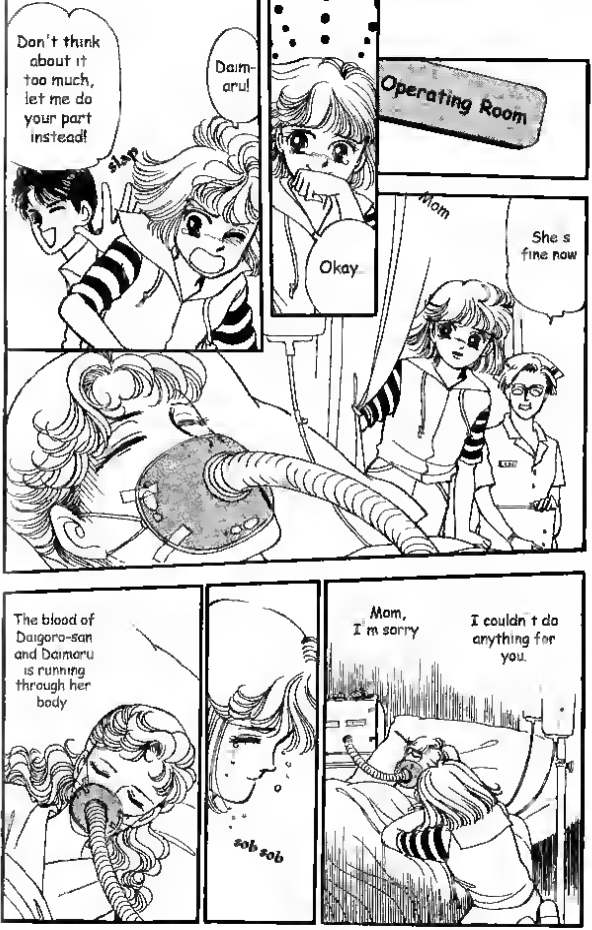
If this keeps up Haruka won't be able to get married
Since she's forced to take care of you!
If that's the reason, why didn't you marry Mom?
I AM married to your Mom
That's not right because it would mean that my mom is your current wife
I am married to your Mom

No woy..!
Your current wife is ?
That's right, Mutsumi
Your real Mom is not Haruka
Operating Room
Your real Mom is .
Taka, the lady who's standing here.

that Mom
that Mom
Is not my real Mom?!
Mutsumi, is Haruka alright?!
tap tap tap...
Daigoro-san! Daimaru!
So, Mutsumi

I have to think about
You are the joy of my life Mutsumi!
As long as you're here I don't need anything else
You must think of a way,
to make Haruka happy!
Mom's happiness is to be by my side
Right. Mom.?
Blood type B?

Please take ours we both have type B
Your Mom needs more blood
A
Give her my blood! Take as much as you can!
What's yaur blood type?
Since your mom s blood type is B we can t use yours
I ll let her know that you were concerned
tap
Both of you please come this way
They can't...
They can't use my blood for Mom?!


Don't think about it too much, let me do your part instead!
Daimaru!
slap
Operating Room
Okay
Mom
She's fine now
The blood of Daigoro-san and Daimaru is running through her body
sob sob
Mom, I'm sorry
I couldn't do anything for you.

Physical Therapist
What!?
Mom won't be able to draw anymore?!
Her wrist was injured pretty bad so I don't think she'll be able to do something as complicated as drawing
Even so Mom didn't give up
Aah I failed again!
Noooo! Jun, the man of my dreams, looks like a ghost!

I will never give up!
Mom...
Try again
Mom can't draw anymore,
She can barely hold the pen
Please, stop...
Haruka, that's enough.
AH!
Don't force yourself, for now, get some rest
What are you saying?! If I stop drawing manga, how can I make a living?!
Come stay with me, and I'll make a living for all of us
I hate smokers!
Well, if you quit smoking, I'll think about it

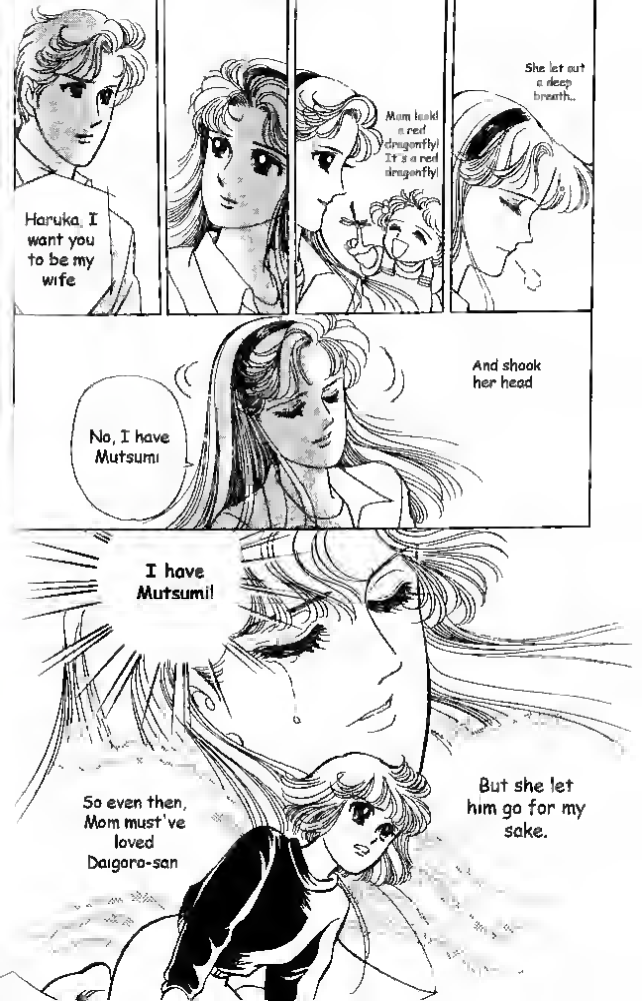
And then Daigoro san suddenly stopped smoking...
Impossible! He normally smokes 3 packs a day!
I'm shocked
I guess Oni-san is really serious.
Serious? About what?
Huh? Are you dumb or what?!
hm
.....
.....
Well, Oni-san proposed to your mom.
After getting rejected by Daimaru Kunko hasn't talked to me
WHAT!?
What did you say?!
He proposed?!?!

Daigaro-san my first love, proposed to my Mom !
When? Why wasn't I told about it?
You didn't notice? He blurted it out in front of everyone.
Come live with me, and I'll make a living for all of us
Th that was a propasal?!
I thought proposing was saying I love you will you marry me?
Baka- that's too embarras ng!
And do you remember what your Mom's reply was?
Well.. if you quit smoking, I'll think about it..

I can't believe this...
If you quit smoking...
I'll think about it
Aaahh!
Such unromantic words... Was it really a proposal?
creak
Mom! Mom?!
Aah, what a mess!
AHH!
SWAP
Shopping for groceries won't be long Mom
Ah, Jun's picture is everywhere!
Suddenly

Eh? This picture of Jun greminds me of someone
AAAA
AWAP
This face..
It's in this picture too and this one
And this one too..
It's Daigoro-san!

The man of my dreams is Jun!
Does it mean that the model for Jun
is Daigoro-san?
Red dragonfly, Oh red dragonfly..
That memory seemed as if it was only yesterday..
As the sun disappeared across the horizon Mami's face was flushed in a brilliant hue of red.
The autumn breeze gently brushed over her long flowing hair


Haruka, I want you to be my wife
Mom look! a red dragonfly! It's a red dragonfly!
She let out a deep breath...
And shook her head
No, I have Mutsumi
I have Mutsumi!
So even then, Mom must've loved Daigoro-san
But she let him go for my sake.

Think of a way to make Haruka happy!
Something that makes her happy,
Something that brings her joy
drip.. drip..
The most
Mom,
Will you be happier if I'm not by your side?

Will it be better if I'm gone?
Mutsumi
come here
What is it, Mom?
SHIT
What's this?!
This letter from Tako!
Mom! You read it?
I sure did!
Why were you hiding it?!

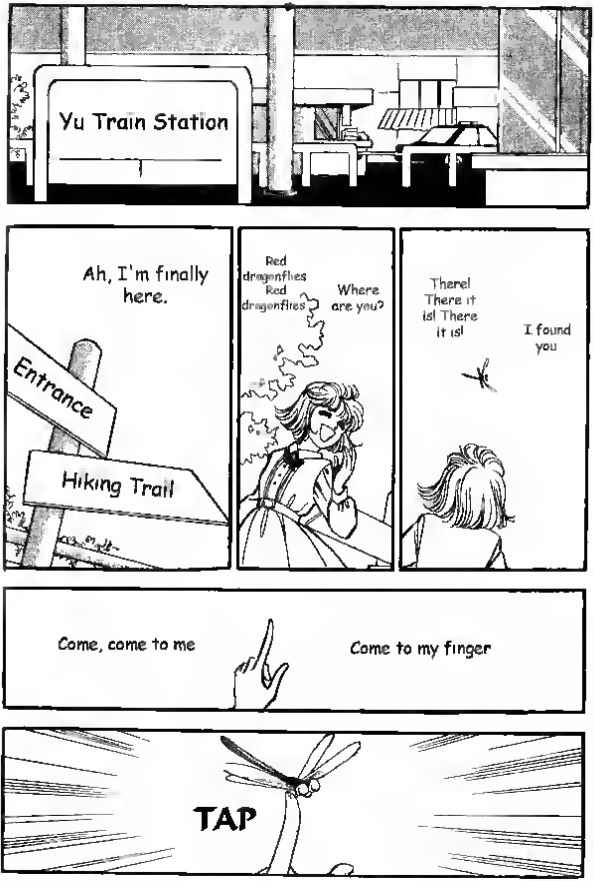
It says, "Thonk you so much for your letter, Mutsumi. I'm so happy to hear that you're coming back to our house."
"Please return any time. I'll be waiting far yau, Mutsumi. Love, Toko."
Then leove
SLAM
You wanted to leave, right? Go ahead! Go to Toko!
Are you going?
Or not?

I'm going.
BADUMP

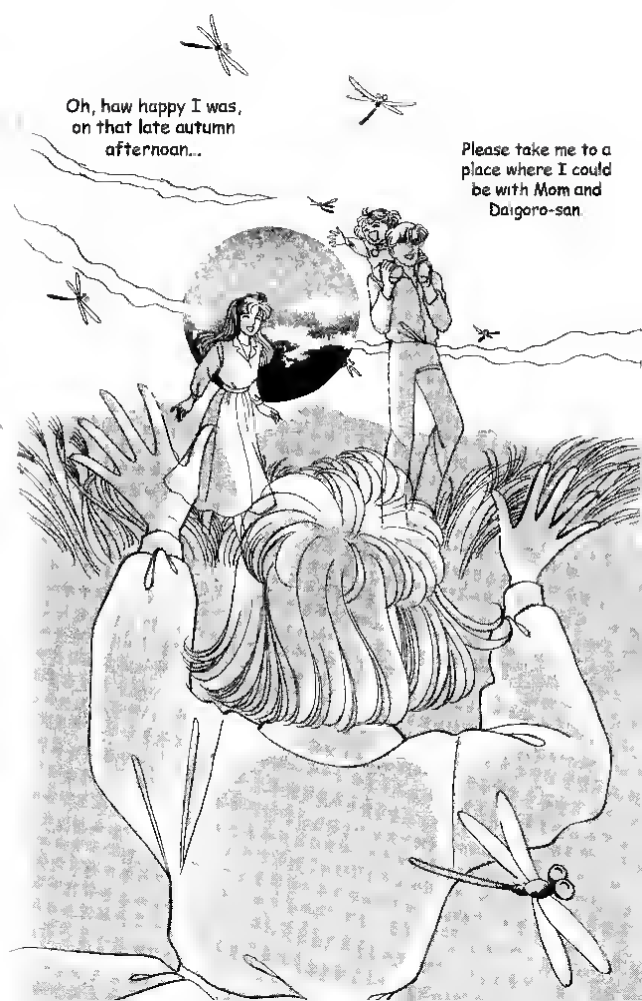
HARUKA
KUSHIMA
Thank you for all you've done for me, Mom
I hope that you and Daigoro-san can find happiness together
It's better this way
Yes it's better this way

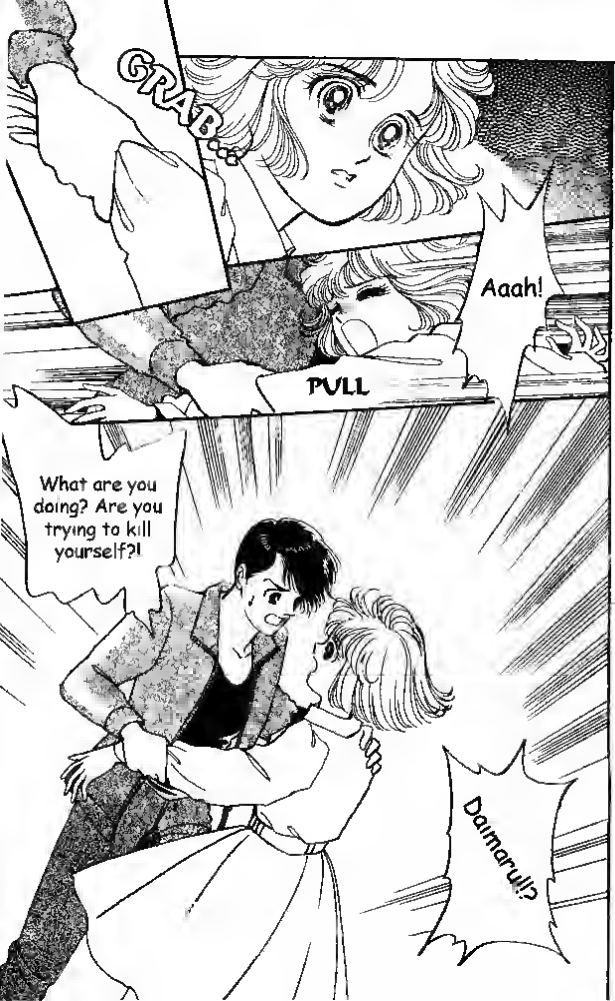
In truth, I really wanted to see you in your wedding dress, Mom
Farewell, Mom. I'm leaving now
Where should I go?
To Dad's house?
NO!
I want to see red dragonflies!

I want to see red dragonflies!
But where should I go ?
Yes, this is Kuniko.
Kuniko, it's me Mutsumi
Where should I go if I want to see red dragonflies?
The most famous place is the mountain Yu in the Gozaisho area.
pfweet


Yu Train Station
Ah, I'm finally here.
Entrance
Hiking Trail
Red dragonflies
Red dragonflies
Where are you?
There! There it is! There it is!
I found you
Come, come to me
Come to my finger
TAP

Waw what huge eyes! How cute !
Hey dragonfly my mom just told me to leave home ...
What should I do now?
Ooh, there are more coming.
How pretty! They're beautiful...
The gentle breeze brushed over Mom s long, flawing hair.
Red dragonflies oh red dragonflies please take me back now

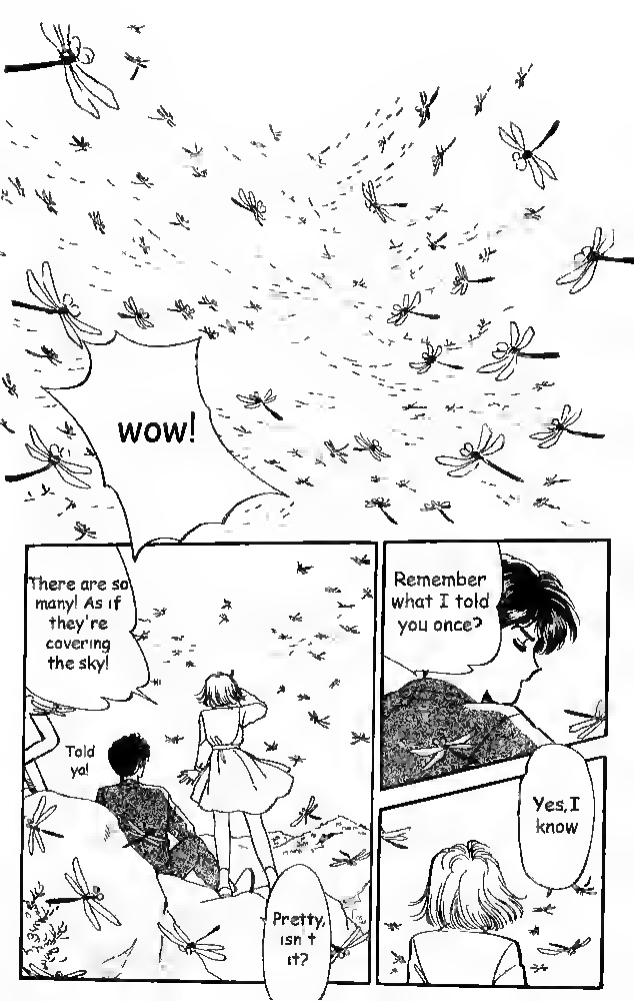

Oh, how happy I was, on that late autumn afternoon...
Please take me to a place where I could be with Mom and Daigoro-san


GRAB
Aaah!
PULL
What are you doing? Are you trying to kill yourself?!
Daimaru!?

Kill myself? Of course not.
Huh?
A cliff!
NOW you realize it!!
Baka.
So what!?
So what...
sob.. sob..

Bed and Breakfast
Hey Daimaru! Where's your oni san?
eh?
um...
Wow, not bad! You already have a girlfriend, at such a young age!
PAT
Th..this is not what you think!
I used to come here a lot with oni-san
How did you know I was here?
hee hee hee
Kuniko told me
Daimaru! Mutsumi sounded very strange on the phone.
She might be going to Gozaisho!

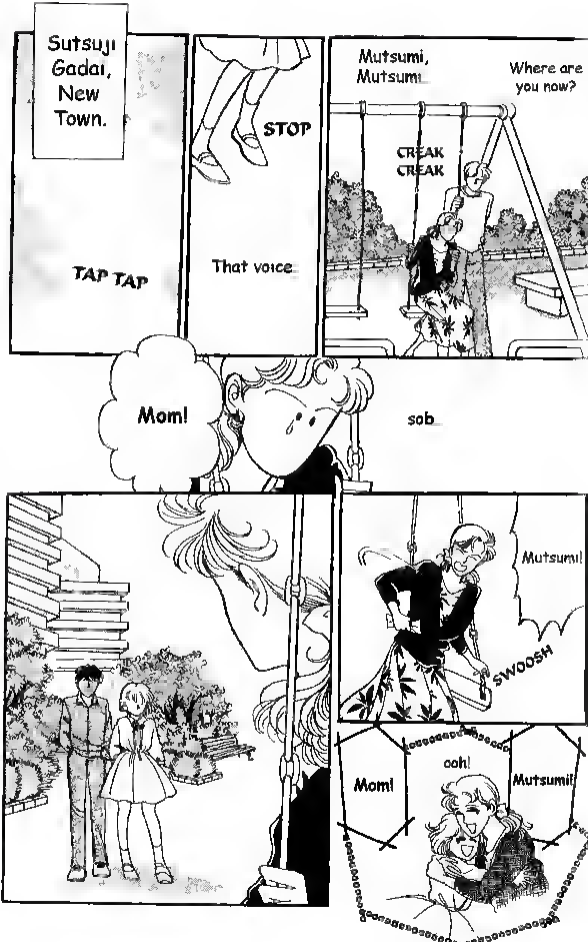
Kuniko ?
I quickly grabbed my wallet and ditched school
I saw you at the train station
and followed you
Kuniko told him
Here, use this blanket
It's so warm!
When we were babies do you think that maybe we were always together like this?
Yeah, I guess so
I'll take you to the mountain top tomorrow
The red dragonflies are much prettier there


wow!
There are so many! As if they're covering the sky!
Told ya!
Pretty, isn't it?
Remember what I told you once?
Yes, I know

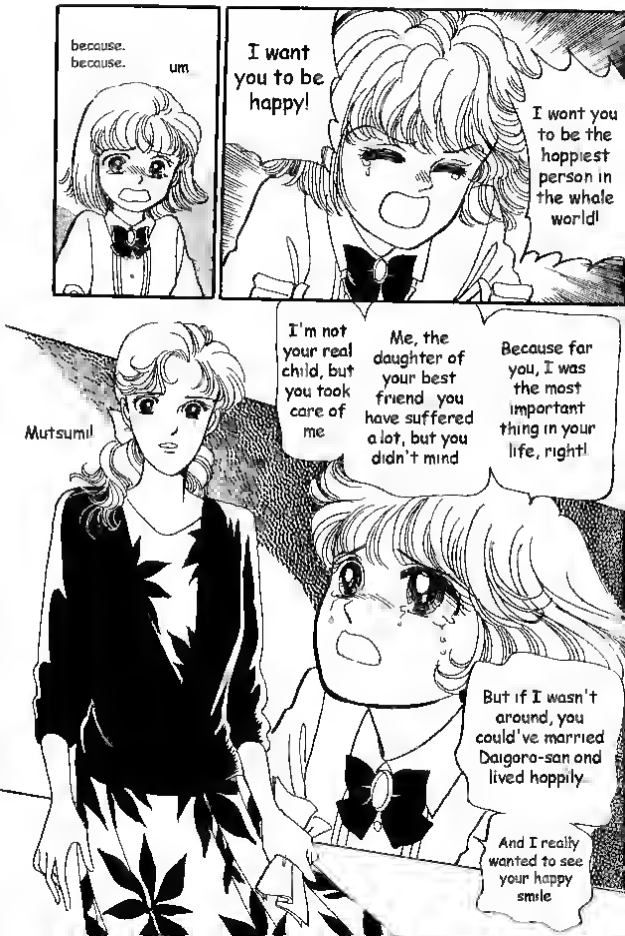
Don't run! You must fight!
Fight until you win!
Now I truly understand what you said
Don't run! Fight them instead!
Not only from the Sakuma family,
But also from Mom
Even from myself, I must not run. I must fight!
Yes. That beautiful autumn afternoon,
If I want it back, I must grab it with my own strength and courage

Yup!
That's right!
Good luck!
CLAP
Thanks!
BADUM
Mountain Top
babump babump
All of a sudden, my chest is...
What's
What's wrong with me?

Come on, let's go home
They?
I'm sure they're worried about us
Oni-san and your Mom
MOM!
ack!
SLAM
Go ahead!
Go to Toko!
That was the first time I saw Mom sa scary.
Will she forgive me?
I'm sure she will
Ah


Sutsuji Gadai, New Town.
TAP TAP
STOP
That voice...
Mutsumi, Mutsumi...
Where are you now?
CREAK CREAK
Mom!
sob...
Mutsumi!
SWOOSH
Mom!
ooh!
Mutsumi!

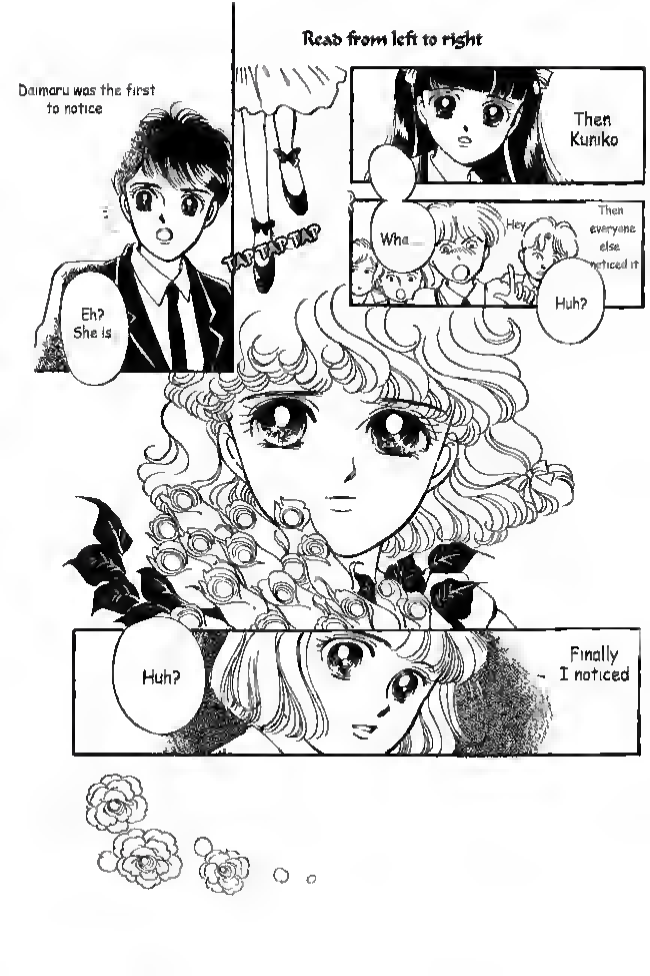
Or so I thought..
SLAP..
Where have you been, you silly daughter?!
Mom, that hurts!
That better hurt! I called everywhere looking for you..
Toko said she never wrote this letter!
The one who wrote this letter was you, wasn't it, Mutsumi?!
Why would you do such a thing?!


because.
because.
um
I want you to be happy!
I want you to be the happiest person in the whole world!
Mutsumi!
I'm not your real child, but you took care of me
Me, the daughter of your best friend you have suffered a lot, but you didn't mind
Because far you, I was the most important thing in your life, right!
But if I wasn't around, you could've married Daigoro-san and lived happily
And I really wanted to see your happy smile

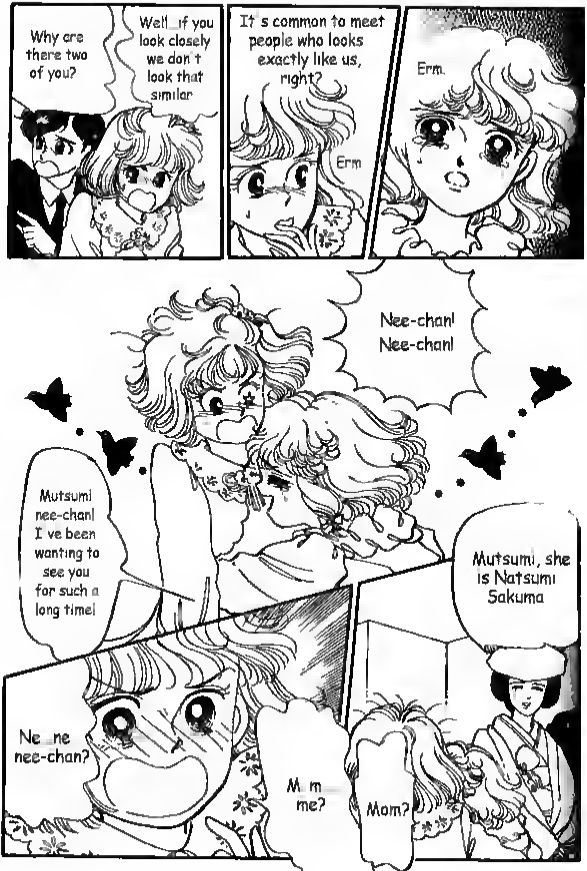
But I didn't have the courage to walk out on you, Mom
So I thought that if I wrote a letter like that, you would get angry and hate me and eventually throw me out of the house
That's what I thought
Mutsumi...
My child
Mutsumi, didn't I say it before? You are the joy of my life!
As long as I have you I don't need anything else
Mom!

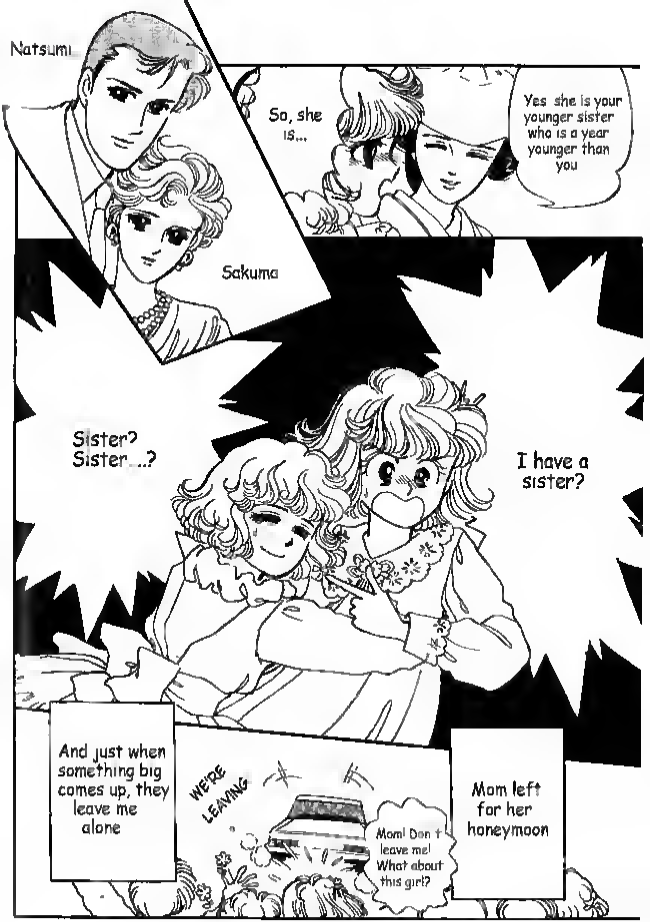
Then, fram now an, I can always stay with yau, right?
I can still be your daughter, right?
Of course! And I'll never tell you to leave again
sniff..
sniff
Hey, Daimarul
Stop crying, will ya?!
Look who's talking!
uhm
Yes, we're all going to be happy!
Always!
and then

The fall has arrived. Today is Mom's and Daigoro-san's wedding day.
Congratulations Daigoro San!
Wow you look so cool!
Class 6-1
Mom you look so pretty!
So beautiful!
eh?
Today, something big is going to happen.


Read from left to right
Daimaru was the first to notice
Eh? She is
TAP TAP TAP
Then Kuniko
Wha...
Hey
Then everyone else noticed it
Huh?
Huh?
Finally I noticed

Ah, I
There's another Mutsumi?
Congratulations on your wedding I'm here on behalf of my mother
On behalf of your mother? Oh then
you must be Natsumi right?
Yes


Why are there two of you?
Well...if you look closely we don't look that similar
It's common to meet people who looks exactly like us, right?
Erm
Erm.
Nee-chan! Nee-chan!
Mutsumi nee-chan! I've been wanting to see you for such a long time!
Mutsumi, she is Natsumi Sakuma
Ne...ne nee-chan?
M...m...me?
Mom?


Natsumi
Sakuma
So, she is...
Yes she is your younger sister who is a year younger than you
I have a sister?
Sister? Sister...?
Mom left for her honeymoon
WE'RE LEAVING
Mom! Don't leave me! What about this girl?
And just when something big comes up, they leave me alone

They look so much like twins
May I please stay with you at least till your mom comes back from her honeymoon?
I'm so glad that I've met nee-chan
May I?
Uh ..sure
Um...
Ah...!
Nee-chan, is he your boyfriend?
Oh
Now way! He's Daigero-san's younger brother!
When's your birthday? What's your blood type? Which college do you want to go to?
Huh?
I.. haven't thought of it yet
I'm going home now
Hey! We still have to clean up!
Ah ...So he is

I'm glad your sister's here
Daimaru
Sister, huh?
Is this nee-chan's house?
So, this is nee-chan's room?
Er—
She suddenly shows up and claims to be my sister... I can't believe this
Er
This isn't right

Take a look at this
Huh? That's me!
Mother keeps all of your pictures
When I first saw it I wanted us to have the same hairstyle
Natsumi
But why .. does it turn out so different?
sniff sniff
It isn't true
We look like twins, honest
Really?
At the party, when you arrived, everyone thought you were me
They all thought that there were two Mutsumi's

I've always wondered what nee-chan looked like
If we live in the same hause we can do everything together.... ballet, go to school.... everything
Taking showers, eating and sleeping with nee-chan would be so cool
Eh?
wwww
wwww
....
Kawaii!
Ah, I've overslept!

Natsumi! For breakfast bread and milk are on the table
As for lunch eat anything you can find in the fridge ok?!
Ok!
I'm leaving now!
Natsumi don't you go to school?
I attend a private school today's the beginning of winter break
Winter break starts on December 1st? I never knew such school exists Must be cool ..
Puff
Puff
Hey Mutsumi, you overslept too?
Hurry! I'll carry your bag!
Luckily I'm here
Ding Dens Ding Dens
Thanks Daimaru

Mutsumi, is that your sister?
Eh?
Natsumi
puff puff
Are you waiting for me?
Yes
Thanks
Hehe
Let s go home
Ok
Ha Ha Ha

bleh
HA HA HA
Ha Ha Ha
Mutsumi's sister is so funny!
Haha
Hey Daimaru
What happened?
How long is your sister going to stay with you?
I'm glad your sister's here
You're right, Daimaru

I gave up on Doimaru because you are my best friend!
But I will not let Natsumi have him!
Kunika, what do you mean?
6-1
Wa! Kunike's finally speaking to me!
Why?
Hey! Wait!
Natsumi isn't here today
Ouch!
boing
Sorry, can you return the ball?
Yeah Yeah

Huh?
Natsumi?
Why is she here?
Daimaru?

Natsumi?

Natsumi and Daimaru
Grab
Hey, Daimaru!
Mutsumi?
Nee-chan?
Bop
What are you doing to Natsumi?

Bounce
Ehm
Hup
Wow! So cool!
What's wrong with you, Natsumi?! Don't get too comfortable with someone like him!
Grab
You mean me?
Don't deny it! You tried to kiss her even when she resisted!
plop
AH...?
No! No! That was...
I'm so happy that you kissed me

I really like you, Daimaru
What ?!
Daimaru
I didn't do anything!
She said that there was dust in her eye so I took a look
No need for an explanation! If you make Natsumi cry like Kumiko, I'll never forgive you!
So nee-chan approves of my relationship with Daimaru?
I'm so happy!
Mutsumi
She still doesn't believe me!
Nee-chan you can go first. From now on I'll go home with my boyfriend

Natsumi is so sweet
Daimaru is a great guy even though he's annoying at times
They make a great couple
sniff
But...

Strange...
Why am I shedding tears?

Huh? Why is the door unlocked?
click
Hello
Hehe
Mom!!
Welcome back, mom!
cough cough
Hi, Mutsumi
Welcome back, Daigoro-san
You've forgot something
scratch scratch
Er... Daigoro-san?
Eh??
Ack!!
He and mom are married. So, he is now my dad!
Hehe
Dad!
Father! Welcome home!

Nee-chan's father and mother...
Ah
are also my father and mother
Oh yeah, that's true
Mutsumi, I bought you some presents
Oh, wow!
I want that one!
But that's Mutsumi's
Please, I really want it!
Mom, can Natsumi have some of my presents?
It's up to you, Mutsumi

(THESE ARE ALL MINE)
Thank you so much!
Well then I m going back to my house
See you later
Shouldn't they be living together?
Slam
No they'll live separately till they can find a house big enough for the four of us
Bye!
Ah, I feel sorry for the newlyweds
You got between them again
Lab
I know
Slam
Mutsumi, what happened when I was away?
Not much, why?
Earlier, your eyes were red
It was nothing
Really?
Tup

It's been a while since we've bathed together
Wanna go?
Sure, let me take off my clothes
Ah but the bath won't fit three people
Natsumi!
HA HA HA
Mother I'll rub your back!
Splash
Its delicious
Tap
Mom, I'm leaving!
HAHAHA
Mother are you starting on a new manga?
I'll help you color and edit the pictures
Coloring and editing
That used to be my job
Whats the matter?

Your mom's back. So, why are you so gloomy?
Natsumi's hogging mom all to herself. I'm upset
Why am I getting jealous over my own sister? Silly me
6-1
Class, we'll soon perform the play titled Sleeping Beauty
SLEEPING BEAUTY
Now let's decide on the cast
I choose Daimaru Ranzuki to be the prince
No, I don't want to
Agreed!
As for the princess, I nominate Mutsumi Ikushima
Kuniko!

Daimaru and me? Together in the play, Sleeping Beauty?
AGREED!

You were nominated to be the Sleeping Beauty?
Yeah, I'm the princess!
I have too many lines!
And Daimaru will be the prince
I have to memorize all this?
Quit!
Slap
Huh?
At the end of the story the prince will kiss the princess
But it'll only be a pretend kiss!
Daimaru is my boyfriend! He can't kiss nee-chan!
Quit! I don't want you to be the princess!
But still...

Quit!
Quit!
Quit!
How annoying
Natsumi!
Stop your fake crying!
What do you really want?
Ah
Daimaru?

You suddenly showed up
and tried to ruin everyone's relationship with Mutsumi... her mom's and oni-san's
Tell me your true intentions!
What are you saying? Stop it Daimaru! She's
Everything belongs to Mutsumi...
Huh?
Let go! Now you see the real me I hate you!
Get away from me!
Slap
Huh it's so easy to deceive the simple-minded Mutsumi..
But I guess I can't fool you, Daimaru

Let me tell you something
What I really want is...
Why, Natsumi?
Your mom, your boyfriend and your happiness
That's right, Mutsumi nee-chan, I'll take everything that belongs to you!

You want ta take away my happiness? But why, Natsumi?
You you've taken over my mother's heart! There's no place for me anymore!
Where is Mutsumi?
What is she doing? Is she well?
It's always Mutsumi always Mustumi
Mutsumi Mutsumi Mutsumi
Mam, what should I do? Don't you love me?

I understand
Don't be so foolish! You're only jealous!
I wasn't too happy when Natsumi got close to mom!
I'm glad you know how I feel! That's when I came up with a plan
I ran away from home
I will go to Mutsumi's place!
And I will take away all your happiness!
Ran away?
You actually ran away from home?
Yes!

Idiot! There's no parent who doesn't love their own child!
Mom still loves me even if I'm not her real daughter!
You must go back home!
Ack!
Go home? Doesn't she live in Tokyo?
Who's paying for the fare?
Mom. I need to borrow some money
Zoom!

I don't wanna go home! Mom doesn't care about me anyway!
Ding Dong Ding Dong
Ouch!
It's huge!
Miss Natsumi
Where were you?
Your mother is sick!

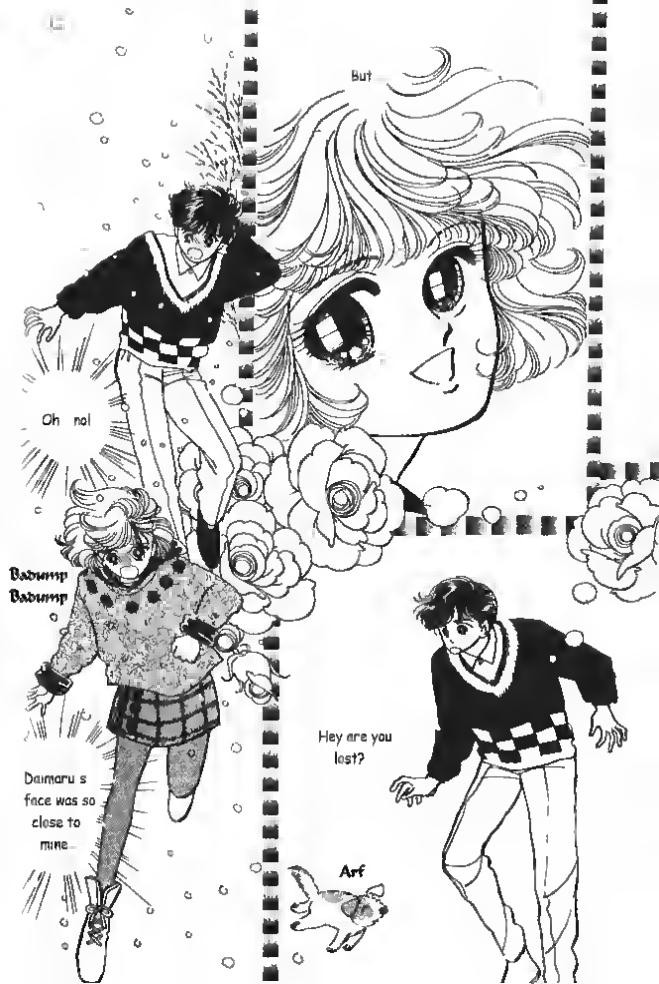
Mom you were sick because you wanted to meet Mutsumi, right?
Well here she is...Are you happy now?
Mother!
Natsumi, your mother is sick because she was worried about you!
I'm also worried about you
Father!
Natsumi, thank goodness you're safe!
Mother
Mother Mother...
Mother...she was really worried about me!

Can I come and visit you sometime?
Yes, of course!
Re...really? You'd still visit me?
Yes
Slam
I love you so much, Mutsumi nee-chan!

Wow! Its snowing!
No wonder it's so cold
You know what? It turns out that everyone in the Sakuma family is really nice!
I'm glad
Now everyone talks about those sad days with smiles and laughter
Yeah
Sniff
Fight till you win!
You've finally won!

What's wrong Mutsumi?
I just realized that I like you!
—!
...!
Why I cried, when I thought I saw you kiss Natsumi!
It's because I like you, Daimaru
Now I know
...
....
....
....

Ah, I'm sorry I blurted it out I'm sorry if I've annoyed you!
So you just realized it? As for me ..
I've loved you since that incident
Since that incident?
I love you!
Badump
Badump


But
Oh no!
Badump
Badump
Daimaru's face was so close to mine...
Hey are you lost?
Arf

Now and forever this is the man I love
Yes I'm happy when I m around him
Then comes spring then follows summer
Mom my school play is tomorrow! May I sleep now?
Scratch Scratch
No way! My due date is tomorrow!
Then comes Autumn...and then Winter..

HUH?
School Performance
Em.
.....
CLASS 6-1 BRINGS YOU "SLEEPING BEAUTY"
BOO!
Why isn't the princess waking up?
The prince already kissed her
Mutsumi, who had turned into Sleeping Beauty...

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